



Appropriately, two of the biggest hitters in bunkerland, Mal Galletta, ex-North and South and Long Island titleholder, and Gordon Stott, erstwhile Lakeville champion, were tied in the driving contest, a feature of North Hills' 1947 Field Day. Pictured are l. to r., J. T. (Pat) Clancy, president; Steve Bayer, Galletta, Stott and Arthur Cunningham, tournament chairman last year.

North Hills' FIELD DAY Is Great Tournament Feature

By JOHN M. BRENNAN

About this time 20 years ago, when Wall Street was riding for that earth-shaking fall of 1929, a group of Clearview Golf Club members conceived the idea of staging one tournament a year to end all tournaments. The Whitestone club in those days bragged of a membership roster that resembled a Who's Who of the American theatrical world in addition to some of Gotham's most influential citizens and was headed by Vincent X. McGuire, who made a fortune promoting golf and cleaning towels for newspaper presses.

Overlooking Long Island Sound and located within New York City, Clearview had its own 350-foot dock for boats, an extensive pier that was used for boxing shows, softball games; a gorgeous 18-hole golf course and extensive grounds.

With such a commodious layout it was natural that boat-minded golfers (everybody seemed to own a cruiser in those days) would turn to Clearview, for it was a short run through East River from Manhattan to Clearview—and a round of golf.

As a result, sleek, white cruisers during an ordinary day might be seen dropping

off such glamour girls and boys as Ginger Rogers, Harry Richman, who had an estate nearby at Beechhurst; Louella Gear, who also had a showplace adjoining the club; Joe Frisco, William C. Fields, Marilyn Miller, Eddie Dooley, Martha Morton, Bert Lahr, The Lyons brothers with the inevitable bevy of Broadway show girls; Clara Bow and dozens of others whose names were familiar to theater marquees throughout the nation.

It was during a bright moonlight night while an amateur boxing show was in progress on the giant pier that Harry Neu, an executive of Decca Records; Joe Gross, Vince McGuire, Commore "Pop" Gerson and Ray McDeavitt started discussing what's wrong with the tournament schedule. All agreed that Clearview should emerge with a tournament that should set a standard—eclipse any tournament ever put on at any club.

"But we have so varied a membership, how can we put on a tournament that will interest everybody?" reasoned Vince McGuire. "Let's put on a Field Day that will be exactly that," shot back Neu, who played a major role in directing tournaments in those carefree days.



George Worthington lost the use of his right arm in a hunting accident, so tosses balls into a bowl to win a prize during Field Day.

A month following the mammoth nocturnal boxing party Clearview's Field Day unreeled and the results were something resembling a Barnum & Bailey extravaganza. The day was tailor-made, with sun bathing the premises and the show girls on the beach. There was music all over the place, with a band playing in the rear of the 18th green.

There were eats before, between and after rounds. Beer barrels were set up in every bunker on the course and a fellow couldn't be blamed for hooking or slicing one into inviting silica sand—if for no other reason than to whet his parched throat.

There was not only golf, but softball, putting competition, dart throwing, tossing balls into barrels, weight lifting, swimming events, speedboat racing and

a dozen other attractions to keep everybody happy.

The day was touched off with a dance and dinner, plus an entertainment program that would, as Joe Frisco estimated, "have cost a million dollars to stage." It was ad lib, with Broadway at its best. The day and night were unforgettable.

So pleased was the Clearview committee with the Field Day that Harry Neu expressed the desire to see it perpetuated. The other members agreed to stage a similar party every year.

But when the City of New York, a few years later, decided to purchase the grounds for \$940,000 the powers in control decided it was a lot of money in the midst of a depression and Clearview became a municipal links. The private club membership dispersed, with the majority converging on North Hills Golf Club, a short distance away, in Douglaston.

Neu and Joe Gross were among the group hooking up at North Hills and when summer rolled around the pair discussed their Field Day dilemma with some of the oldsters at Douglaston. It was natural that North Hillsites had heard of the unique and novel party staged so successfully at Clearview, so they were receptive to the idea and immediately shaped plans to inherit the idea nurtured by Harry, Joe and the rest at Whitestone.

North Hills members took to the Field Day program like a duck to water. Neu and Gross were somewhat stymied at first, for North Hills, being an inland club, hadn't the facilities for the nautical-minded, but to compensate for the lack of water, the Douglaston club had a far more pretentious clubhouse and larger grounds—if not a superior course.

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At the well-patronized clam bar, F. W. Krippel, chief national bank examiner; William B. Jones, president of Springfield Gardens National Bank and Frank Peterson of the Federal Reserve Bank.



Ed Froelich points to ace as Jim Slattery, a former North Hills champ, takes aim in throwing darts, one of the many additional pastimes which are a feature of North Hill's Field Day program.

Memphis CC Is Groomed For National Amateur

Jimmy Hamner, supt., Memphis CC and pres., Memphis Greenkeepers' Assn., is ahead of schedule on the work of grooming the course for the National Amateur, Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Hamner laid out his plans after consultation with Fred Graue, USGA Green Section director; O. J. Noer, and club officials.

Some construction work is being done in tightening traps. Several holes presented interesting problems involving the comparative difficulties of recoveries from traps and shooting at greens so large that the risk of three-putting was greater than normal. Memphis CC greens have size to accommodate change-over from Bermuda to rye without taking the greens out of play. The dividing line is about up and down the middle of the greens.

Hamner has made numerous experiments with various strains of bent and maintenance practices but hasn't found a bent or maintenance method that will keep bent greens during the summer.

The course will play about 6670 for the amateur. Some new tees have been constructed and greens size diminished by the tighter trapping. Bermuda will be in excellent condition for putting at the time of the Amateur, Hamner says.

Greens, fairways and tees have been put into good shape by aerifying. Topdressing after aerifying has helped put greens in shape. Three applications of Milarsenite and spraying with arsenic acid completely eliminated the crabgrass last year. Rain and ice this winter may have presented some more maintenance problems but Hamner, who has been with the club 28 years, is set to handle them if they do arise.

The course originally was a 9-hole layout constructed 43 years ago. It was increased to 18 and completely redesigned and rebuilt by Donald Ross in 1913. A few alterations since have been made by W. C. Sherwood, when he was the club's active pro. Changes for the Amateur are mainly dictated by the longer ball and the rye-Bermuda change over influence on size of greens. Frances Ouimet and Richard Tufts of the USGA visited the Memphis CC after the 1947 Amateur and went over the proposed alterations with George Treadwell, veteran official of the club.

PGA Activities Illustrated In Chart Form For Members

PGA secretary, Joe Novak, has prepared a chart showing the aims, purposes, activities and accomplishments of the Assn. in a form that can be readily portrayed and explained. Dividing the PGA's activities into four general classes, namely, 1.

General association procedure and routine, 2. Aid to members, 3. Promotional activities, and 4. Outside relations, the chart does not attempt to describe in detail, but if studied easily illustrates the history of the PGA, where it came from, where it is today, and where it is going tomorrow.

Presented at the Association's recent annual meeting as the basis of the secretary's report, the convention unanimously voted to provide all members with a copy for study and analysis. Joe is to be commended for this "bird's-eye" view of PGA activities and all members and other interested individuals should have a copy at hand for ready reference.

NORTH HILLS' FIELD DAY

(Continued from page 41)

How well Neu and Gross succeeded at North Hills is reflected in the attendance figures for 1947. Unfortunately, the Weather Man was in an uncompromising mood and unleashed a torrential storm the morning of the Field Day last year, but in spite of the atrocious conditions some 200 members and guests ignored the inclement weather. In spite of the turnout, the party was postponed and when rescheduled more than 350 participated in the five-ring circus, as the affair has become at North Hills.

Joe Gross, known as "Uncle Joe" to bunkerland, passed on to greener pastures on the eve of last year's tournament. Soon after, North Hills decided to perpetuate his memory by donating a Joe Gross Memorial Trophy that will go to the winner of the annual Field Day.

No expense is spared at North Hills' Field Day. There is food fit for royalty, including a clam bar that is well patronized during the day. The inevitable beer barrels decorating the bunkers are still much in evidence and, in addition, there are refreshments at every tee and green for those accurate shooters who don't explore traps.

There is music all day long, with a band on the high terrace back of the green of the 600-yard 18th hole. Many an easy putt is missed at this green when the band strikes up some blue notes just to disconcert the player.

In back of North Hills, there is softball in progress and on the vast lawn and on the big putting green there is endless competition and fun for those who can't find time to get out on the golf course. It's a grandiose party that has transcended any and all other parties at North Hills—just as at Clearview in those loose days of 1928. Ask any North Hills member and he'll tell you business can wait when Field Day rolls around. It's that kind of day.



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"We have member-guests that have been the talk of the golf world and every other kind of tournament imaginable, but for genuine satisfaction Field Day is the thing," commented J. T. (Pat) Clancy, president of North Hills and prominent attorney.

"I should imagine that such an event would prove a sellout at any club. It's a day when we let our hair down, as it were. Everybody comes out anticipating a wild, crazy day and nobody goes home disappointed. We have a near-100 per cent member attendance when this event rolls around."

George Spargo, who was deputy mayor when Bill O'Dwyer moved into City Hall following the La Guardia regime and is at present Chairman of the important Triborough Bridge Authority, summed up the Field Day program at North Hills when he said: "I know business men who declare a holiday when Field Day rolls around."

Eric G. Kock, president of the Club Managers Association of America who is executive manager of North Hills, has been responsible in a large measure for the tremendous strides made by the Field Day at Douglaston.

Under Eric's astute direction, the party which might easily get out of control be-

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cause of the vast number of persons involved, runs smooth as a Swiss timepiece. "It's well planned and so many have been put over that we can anticipate trouble before it develops and know what to do to avoid it. I would heartily recommend this party, which is nothing more than a big circus, to any and all clubs. It's a terrific hit at our place."

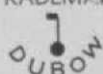
"I never realized that night out on the Clearview pier that 20 years later, at a different club, we would be still carrying on so gustily," commented Harry Neu the other day when the North Hills tournament committee selected Wednesday, June 16th, for the Field Day jamboree. "It's become like the proverbial snowball and I often wonder if it will ever lose momentum. It doesn't seem to, does it?"

Al Matarazzo, tournament chairman at North Hills, said that in addition to the ambitious Field Day plans, his committee has just about the most diversified tournament schedule in the country. "We'll have the usual member-guest and tournaments every weekend and holiday from mid-April until Thanksgiving."

Matarazzo said that for genuine fun and good fellowship, the Field Day program can't be duplicated. "It's a sure fire hit at our club," he commented.



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